

Why The Aspen Team?

Aspen Environmental Group (Aspen) was founded in 1991, and has conducted analyses and permitting for numerous energy, water, and infrastructure projects. Aspen regularly conducts unbiased assessments for local, State, and federal agencies and in compliance with environmental regulations. Most of Aspen's contracts (95 percent) are with public agencies. Since 2005, Aspen has worked with many public agencies on their planning and regulatory permitting efforts on renewable energy projects in southern California. Aspen has been involved in every major energy project in the County providing regulatory support services to the California Energy Commission and California Public Utilities Commission, including the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan.

What was the County looking for in a Consultant for SPARC Phase 2?

- A strong economic and scientific research team with experience in the field of renewable energy (RE) technology to provide a quantitative analysis of applicable RE costs and benefits.
- A broad perspective and understanding of the opportunities and constraints created by State RE policy directives and their effects on federal, State, and local government control of private lands.
- Experience with the complex issues and conflicting goals facing the County as it moves toward establishing RE policy directives, and the ability to be impartial in its assessments.
- Understanding of the RE industry and the technical challenges faced by both utility companies and private investment in attempting to implement these directives.

What skills does the Aspen Team bring to the County?

Aspen (www.aspeneg.com) is a full-service environmental planning, analysis, and policy services firm. Over the past 24 years, Aspen has conducted analyses and permitting for numerous projects that often involve controversial issues, extensive public participation programs, and require coordination with multiple public agencies. Aspen routinely works with public agencies on environmental and planning projects and often manages a team of specialists on comprehensive environmental impact analyses and special studies. Aspen's key relevant skills include:

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| ■ Environmental Siting Studies and Analyses | ■ Energy Planning |
| ■ Alternatives Screening and Development | ■ Public Involvement Plans and Consensus Building |
| ■ Environmental Analysis under CEQA and NEPA | ■ Meeting Logistics and Facilitation |
| ■ Regulatory Compliance and Permitting | ■ Economic Modeling |
| ■ Habitat Restoration and Planning | ■ Economic and Socioeconomic Studies |
| ■ Energy Policy Development and Analyses | ■ Cost-Benefit and Fiscal Impact Analyses |

For SPARC Phase 2, Aspen is supported by a team of specialized firms, including:

- Collaborative Economics (www.coecon.com), which brings experience in facilitating discussions among multiple stakeholders to support economic studies and analyses.
- Essergy Consulting (www.essergy.net) has experience with economic development strategies, and federal, State, and private grant funds to help further economic development goals.
- Life Cycle Associates (www.lifecycleassociates.com) conducts cost-benefit analyses and brings experience in developing economic models related to energy impacts and emissions inputs.